pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to grow Cotton in the non-traditional areas; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan to be drawn up in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) There is no specific proposal as yet to grow cotton in non-traditional areas.

(b) Question does not arise.

Increase in the Prices of Fertilizers

1519. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of various kinds of fertilizers have been increased during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the names of these fertilizer and the extent of increase made in their prices;

(c) the effect of such increase in the prices of fertilizers on the farmers, agriculture and production of crops; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check this unremunerative effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Government increased prices of Urea (46%N), Anhydrous Ammonia and Zincated Urea with effect from 10-6-94. The increase was 20%.

(c) and (d) The consumption of urea is expected to be 98 lakh tonnes during 1994-95 as against consumption of 78.89 lakh tonnes during 1993-94. Government also announced better support prices for foodgrains as well.

Constitution of a committee to solve problems of small fishermen

1520. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted a specialist Committee under Shri D. Sudarshan, which had been assigned to study the problems of small fishermen along with the work to give suggestions for encouraging the fishing operations in deep sea by Sea Vessels;

(b) if so, whether the committee has since submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, what are the suggestions made by the Committee; and

(d) what are the suggestions which have been accepted by Government for implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The The Committee was set up by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The suggestions made by the Committee have been furnished in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(d) The suggestions of the Committee have been accepted by the Government.

Statement

Constitution of a committee to solve the problems of small fishermen

1. REGULATION OF FISHING EFFORT: A coordinated system of regulation of total fishing effort not only by the deep sea fishing vessels but also the coastal fishery to be evolved. This could be achieved by—

(a) the Maritime States and the Union Territories taking steps towards matching the size of their fishing fleets to the resource potential as assessed with the best scientific evidence available with respect to the area of their jurisdiction.

(b) Consultations between the concerned agencies of Govt. of India, Maritime States and fishing interests to regulate the fishing effort in the territorial waters as well as in the EEZ.

(c) Phasing out of the operation of chartered fishing vessels starting with these using less selective fishing gear.

(d) Encouraging joint ventures and Indian owned fishing vessels in the area of resource specific fishing such as tuna long linign, squid jigging, midwater trawling.

2. PERIODICAL REVIEW OF OPERATIONS :

The performance of the deep sea fishing vessels presently operating under licence/permit with less selective gear such as bottom trawling, pair trawling to be monitored to assess their impact through periodical reviews say every 2-3 years.

3. FISHING AREA LIMITS :

Taking into consideration of the configuration of the continental shelf and to ensure that there is no conflict of interest between the traditional and small mechanised fishing boats on the one hand and the joint venture, 100% EOU and Indian owned deepsea fishing vessels on the other, the latter may be allowed to operate only beyond 15 nautical miles north of lat. 18°N off the Northwest coast.

4. VESSEL TRACKING SYSTEM (VTS) :

To trackle the problem of violation of the area restrictions by the chartered and rest fishing vessels, installation of IMMARSAT "C" terminals with GPS facility in all the vessels so that their position could be monitored on a 24 hour basis. Similar arrangement could be made for joint venture, leased and 100% EOU vessels.

5. CATCH REPORTING SYSTEM :

An effective catch reporting system by National Flag vessels to authorised agencies a major and minor fishing harbours while at the same time strengthening the system of collecting fish landing statistics presently being adopted by the Maritime States, U.Ts and other research organisations. Such a system may be incorporated into the legal framework for regulating the activity of Indian fishing vessels.

6. TRAINING :

The Govt. of India should design and develop schemes for training of traditional and small scale fishermen community in methods of deepsea fishing with which they are neither conversant nor experienced. This may be achieved by—

(a) Earmarking the training and survey vessels of Govt. of India exclusively for this purpose for a limited period say 2-3 months in a year.

(b) Chartering specialised fishing vessels (resource specific operation) for specified periods either from Indian or foreign sources exclusively for training purposes.

(c) CIFNET may consider setting up an Unit to cater to North-west coast.

(d) To enhance the training opportunities, it may be necessary to insist on a minimum percentage of Indian crew on joint venture vessels from the very beginning with an inbuilt system of progressive indigenisation of the crew

7. SUPPORT TO FISHERMEN CO-OPERATIVES :

A limited number of deepsea ventures by fishermen co-operatives with technical advise and also financial support from the Government and the existing deepsea fishing industry may be set up. These could be in the form of either pilot or demonstration projects.

8. LEGISLATION :

A comprehensive legislation for exploitation and conservation of marine fishery and monitoring fishing activities at national and state levels may be brought out.

(a) Maritime States/U.Ts who have not so far enacted Maritime Fishing Regulations should take immediate steps to bring for the required legislation.

(b) In the interest of surveillance, monitoring and also uniformity, Maritime State should consider uniform zonation in consultation with neighbouring states which will also prevent recurrence of traditional mechanised and deepsea fishing sectors.

(c) Steps should be taken for strengthening enforcement of the Maritime Zones in India act 1981 by extending support to Coast Guard in terms of communication facilities and software for the proposed Vessel Tracking System (VTS).

(d) The Government of India should expeditiously enact legislation for regulating fishing by Indian owned fishing vessels in the India's EEZ.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT :

All Maritime States and Union Territories as well as the Govt. of India should evolve a code of conduct for fishing vessels operating within the territorial waters covering various aspects of operation including compensation for damage to fishing craft and gear.

Dissatisfaction amongst scientists in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research

1521. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE.